

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1867

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0391

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, UN, AG

SUBJ: NARCOTICS ISSUES

REF: STATE 12353; 23515

1. EMBOFF REQUESTED ALGERIAN RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL AMENDING SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS AND ADDITIONAL GOA CONTRIBUTION TO UNFDAC AT FEB 11 MEETING WITH MOHAMED MEDJAD (DIRECTOR OF JURIDICAL AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS) AND HOCINE MESLOUB (CHIEF, DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CONVENTIONS) OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. RATIFICATION: MEDJAD COMMENTS SUGGEST RATIFICATION FAR BACK IN GOA CONSIDERATION. MESLOUB REPEATED 1972 LINE ABOUT CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES COMPLICATING RATIFICATION, THEN ACKNOWLEDGED DISTINCTION BETWEEN TWO INSTRUMENTS, BUT CONCLUDED BY SAYING SIMPLY THAT NATIONAL COMMISSION STILL STUDYING QUESTION OF RATIFICATION (AS IT HAS BEEN SINCE 1972). HE DID NOT APPEAR OPTIMISTIC THAT GOA WOULD ACT SOON, BUT APPEARED SURPRISED - AND HOPEFULLY SPURRED ON - WHEN INFORMED
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THAT 35 COUNTRIES HAD NOW RATIFIED CONVENTION.

3. CONTRIBUTION: MEDJAD STATED THAT PROPOSAL TO RAISE
GOA CONTRIBUTION ALREADY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY GOA.
EMBOFF MADE POINTS STATE 23515, WHICH WERE DULY NOTED.

4. IN DISCUSSING RECENT SURGE IN NARCOTIC TRAFFIC
ARRESTS IN ALGERIA, MEDJAD AGREED WITH THESIS TRAFFICKERS
NOW SEEKING NEW ROUTE THROUGH ALGIERS TO TUNIS, THEN
TO ITALY. ALTHOUGH HE PREVIOUSLY UNAWARE THAT GOA
SURETE PLANNING FEB 26 CONFERENCE ON NARCOTICS (TO
WHICH US INVITED), HE NOTED THAT THIS VERY GOOD SIGN.
HE EXPLAINED THAT SURETE HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN UNIN-
TERESTED IN NARCOTICS MATTERS AS UP TO NOW NARCOTICS
POSED ONLY HYPOTHETICAL THREAT TO ALGERIA. WITH CHANGE
IN TRAFFIC PATTERNS, HE SAID HE EXPECTED USE RATE MIGHT
RISE HERE. FOR THAT REASON, HE SAID, GOA CURRENTLY
DRAFTING NEW LAWS WHICH WILL SHARPLY RAISE CRIMINAL
PENALTIES FOR DRUG-RELATED ACTIVITIES.PARKER

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